

*Dedication: In memory of all victims of COVID-19*

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## Chapter

From November 2019, the Chinese Communist Party and the World Health Organization would become responsible for an extensive cover-up that would lead to a global pandemic. Based on the report from the Wuhan Health Commission, reports confirming the presence of the virus were specified with its patient zero exhibiting symptoms since December 12th 2019 although other sources suggest earlier incubation and spread had likely already occurred. In particular, the data from the Wuhan hospital that was later studied through had revealed that the first patient being a 55-year-old man had demonstrated COVID-19 symptoms as early as November 17th 2019. However, the first documented patient that was recorded on the 1st of December 2019 which contradicted official accounts by one week early.

China's national interest in response to COVID-19 was most likely prioritised for the benefit of its international standing among the global community. Being able to positively represent itself makes it important in its diplomacy and its perception. Depending on how China's activities are perceived among other state actors, this would influence how foreign policies would respond towards China in the future. For example, China may wish to cultivate a trustworthy reputation on how it can handle a health crisis which thus determines how other stakeholders interact among it.

The notion of sustaining positive relationships to protect Chinese national interests is important if it wishes to cooperate with other state actors, which could be jeopardized if action is taken. In particular, this could range from pressuring its conduct in political authority, travel bans or halting foreign investment into the country. Although earlier recognition of the virus had already occurred internally, it wasn't even until January 14th 2020 that the city of Wuhan would implement public health preventative measures to combat COVID-19 outbreak. The first recorded death resulting from COVID-19 occurred on January 9th 2020 which the patient was previously employed at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale

Market that sourced the outbreak. Over two months since the index case until January 23rd 2020, Wuhan Tianhe Airport being central China's busiest international airport, continued to operate with 108 non-stop passenger destinations globally and domestically without interruption. Before then, China had reported the daily average of new COVID-19 cases at 172. Using data from IATA with consideration that many were also arriving in time for Chinese New Year, the average volume per day of international travel from Wuhan was also roughly 3,301 daily.

With economic stability, some speculation might occur against foreign markets engaging with China as concern over its conduct might spark concern. As a result, possible stock index



collapses might result from short selling of equity and overall panic due to concern. China although having a dominant exchange, in comparison to the United States does not utilize the stock market prominently in its economy. Most publicly listed corporations in the United States highly prefer equity financing, whereas Chinese corporations are more dependent on loans and retained funds. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic had also occurred within the Chunyun period (E.g Chinese New Year, Wuhan World Military Games) where economic output was estimated to be at its peak, it would also be crucial for China to uphold its trust with its international standing. Movement is also a challenge especially given the fact that the pandemic occurred during the Chunyun period, and whether China's healthcare system can cater with this larger traffic capacity.

(Source: YiCai Global - A Chinese New Year festival within the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak occurs in the Baibuting community of Wuhan, it was estimated over 40,000 families attended)

This can also reflect the possibility of commercial interests having to accelerate alternative measures especially if handling would reflect whether future commerce would be expected with China. Any possible supply chain disruption or even suspension of business activities could result in increased cancellation or selling of stock in return give a downturn to market recession.

China also has an export surplus in addition to be the largest exporter globally, meaning there is a high degree of dependency which could have repercussions if disrupted. The greater difference China has is that it operates under its planned economy system, effectively

allowing greater control including its exchange rate, advantage for state-owned enterprises and effectively command in its national interests. In comparison to other economies, the use of the Chinese Socialism means that there is a greater ability to enact vital changes much faster that would sustain itself during the event of a pandemic. Like the Belt Road Initiative, China's role globally has stemmed from foreign investments to prescribing loans to other states to fund projects allowing them to possess substantial amounts of credit. This foreign policy being criticised with the term as "Debt-Trap Diplomacy" allocations concessions on debt conditions such as preference trade with Chinese state-owned enterprises. Not only would this incur payments through the Yuan currency but promote the amount of world trade to denote greater use using it as the reserve currency. It becomes extremely important especially for China whom do not having a floating exchange rate, means that its possible direction of public debt in response to the pandemic can affect its reputation in currency stability and GDP.

Wuhan, China alone has been considered central China's hub for economic, financial and commercial interest. In comparison to other cities within China, the Gross Domestic Product of Wuhan had been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> estimated at over 224 billion USD. However, foreign investment from 80 other countries in Wuhan only accounts for roughly less than 10% of the GDP also featuring the highest amount of French investment in any Chinese city. Wuhan has also been dubbed as "The Chicago of China" given its dominant role in being a major transportation hub, as a matter of fact a new high-speed railway between Wuhan and Shiyang had opened at the midst of the outbreak and possibly contributing to the spread. At the same time, the Chinese government also ordered the shut-down of the Yangtze River for commercial fishing effectively suspending up to 280,000 licenses in the area, the State Council's justification was for environmental conservatism.

During 2019, China came under scrutiny over the specific environmental issue with protests in Wuhan, China over the new state-enterprise waste incineration plant. In comparison with the larger Hong Kong protests, the nature of the Wuhan protest was considerably based on a local issue that likely was not considered a direct threat to national security (China's sovereignty claim) nor warrant any international backlash. A 2015 report by the IJERPH suggested that this would introduce a dangerous degree of pollution levels at harmful levels. In particular, it suggested that the badly designed incinerator could fuse highly toxic dioxins that have the capability towards damaging the immune system and other harmful offsets. Fast-forward, a recent research confirmed that long-term exposure to lethal air pollution (e.g PM 2.5 particles) can equvalate to the same pre-existing conditions that increase risk of death for COVID-19.

Other earlier events within Wuhan during late 2019 included the opening of a new high-speed railway between Wuhan and Shiyang that happened on November 29th 2019. A few days later, Wuhan was also enacting a direct service for sailing to Japan that would bypass Shanghai transshipment. On an unproven side note, [Thailand immigration officials in Bangkok had arrested four Chinese men on November 28th](#) on the charges of "begging with bogus stories" that earned them up to 2,500 baht daily. These men were from the Hubei Province, China where surprisingly the virus was first discovered, however in their apparently 'bogus story' it highlighted that they were in need of donations for leukemia for a wife's medical treatment. Leukemia is a blood cancer which can affect the body to fight any infections meaning more vulnerability especially against COVID-19 transmission. Obviously, this doesn't directly prove, nor has it been confirmed of COVID-19, but given

this, the fact that the beggars were quick to deny, and the fact that the first cases outside China occurred in Thailand does raise concerns.

Since the 2003 SARS outbreak, the Chinese government has been able to recognise greater threats both to its national security and international standing in how it responds to public health crisis. Back in 2003, it had initially attempted to downplay the severity of the epidemic until international pressure would drive China to become more transparent on its reporting which would be expected even in the future. It's motivation in being able to reform their plan for similar emergencies would have promoted greater reassurance by other state actors. In accordance with the World Health Organization, there would also be a responsibility for China to report and respond not only to sustain relations but given the actions occurred within its borders, to which makes it vulnerable for receiving retaliatory sanctions if mismanaged. Similarly, the Chinese government had previously had to prosecute five officials within the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in 2004 following a clinically confirmed case of SARS. Investigations reported that three cases had occurred due to negligence among a laboratory research for SARS-Cov-1 at the National Institute of Virology at Beijing

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[The Associated Press obtained internal documents showing that the WHO spent \\$200 million a year on travel expenses.](#) This is more than what they spend on several major diseases combined, including AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



([Source](#): An Associated Press investigation concludes the corruption of World Health Organization in fulfilling its stated purpose)

Effectively, China's record had been globally phrased in the past such as the ability to induce preventive measures including the universal vaccinations during the 2009 swine flu pandemic or the bio-development of a vaccine following the 2013 H7N9 outbreak. Despite the severity and the late release of information, many allegations suggested that even internally within China that a need to cover-up was necessary to preserve its public health reputation. Early attempts by dubbed whistle-blowers was also suppressed by the Chinese officials who had attempted to censor details revealing the virus even inside China. Because awareness of the virus discovery was problematic to international standing, it essentially motivated the necessity for China to delay tendencies such as those like Li Wenliang's actions. Through the 2005 International Health Regulations which China is a signatory towards, failing to report



any major disease outbreak to the World Health Organization in a reasonable time is a breach.

China's main political power applied in response to the COVID-19 was similar to its original approach during the 2003 SARS outbreak, although this time the coordinated scale is different. Since then, China has also become a continuing signatory to the 2005 WHO International Health Regulations incorporating it domestically through the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China. Pursuant to the international law, the Ministry of Health was designated as its national focal point as the formal contact for revealing information and formal contact with WHO. However, the local health authorities in the respective Chinese provinces were designated responsible to implement the IHR. The first public alert made from China was notified to the World Health Organization on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, which similar to its previous pandemic strategy aimed to minimize information spread over the two months. Under the International Health Regulations which China is a signatory towards, is the duty to report risks of public health emergencies through WHO within 24 hours. It's first response to the initial outbreak was closure of the possible point of origin at Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, which state media originally claimed was for "renovations". At this stage there was still an unknown etiology but prompted the Chinese local authorities to sanction orders against whistleblowing of information.

One example that China did to combat the exposure of information being leaked was enforced through the *Public Security Administration Punishment Law of the People's Republic of China*. Over the initial weeks of the outbreak, Chinese authorities in Wuhan reprimanded various whistle-blowers who attempted to alert others on reports confirming the severity and existence of COVID-19. Even Wuhan's Mayor Zhou Xianweng made note of the superiors who on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 addressed with various rebuttals through the state media, said that disclosure of COVID-19 information was only possible with the authorization of the central Chinese government.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, the Wuhan Municipal Public Security Bureau issued a formal warning to Wuhan Central Hospital ophthalmologist Li Wenliang following attempts to disclose information. Authorities applied on the grounds that the ophthalmologist had 'disrupting social order', after multiple friends were notified via a private WeChat group of diagnosis reports confirming the presence of COVID-19. Chinese national health authorities had also mandated for officials to sign a non-disclosure agreement that required the elimination of all relevant documents that measured certain activity within the outbreak. A virus genome sequence had been collected on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 to be distributed among state officials and researchers, but even on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, the Hubei Health Commission ordered that the virus sample testing be canceled and to be destroyed. It wouldn't even be until January 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 following over a week since notifying WHO, that the [virus sequence](#) was provided for external research.

Eventually, China's national response came with mandating a quarantine using political power that would effectively place a large portion of the population under lockdown, whilst additionally taking advantage of its present mass surveillance system to help curb the outbreak results. Even so, the spread of the outbreak had already been suggested to spread nationwide by then as one day prior to the Wuhan lockdown, the first international transmission had occurred in Thailand. Part of China's measures in tracing movement during the pandemic also came at the convenience at its recently introduced facial recognition legislation.

In December 2019, China enacted new legal guidelines, mandating that all registration of mobile phone devices was to complement its database facial recognition scan. This was initially part of China's internal policy to trace, survey and identify its population via cellular devices. It became instrumental upon the outbreak as it could integrate with its public surveillance system to detect elevated temperatures and other concerns among the traffic of its population. Part of its quarantine campaign was also supplemented with enforcing an adaption to undertake the practice of requiring government issued permits to authorise local movement. Despite China also officially claiming only to have roughly around 80,000 COVID-19 confirmed cases, some have speculated that the more accurate estimations are possible especially as foreign intelligence such as from the United States have been deemed inaccurate. Furthermore, on that, based on records issued by mobile carriers within mainland China, China Mobile Ltd. saw a decline of nearly 7.25 million subscribers and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd. lost 7.8 million subscribers in two months, while China Telecom Corp. lost 5.6 million subscribers in February alone. Although this does not directly imply any confirmation of possibly 21 million cases/deaths, it becomes very suspicious for the epicentre especially that cell phones usage is generally high especially during a lockdown period. You could simply say many people cancelled their phones for an unusual variety of reasons. Not to mention that under current Chinese law, it has also mandated the use of it's new health code system that fixed all cell phones in China to generate 'health codes'. How this works is that depending on the condition of an individual, it would register with the phone to present a 'green coloured health code' that allows people to freely move outside their residences. This would be also very difficult to remove as all phones are registered and connected with the state, alongside any other banking, telecommunications, social security, medical records that are bundled with it etc



Source: AP Images: China's sanctioned tracing system being used with a QR code at Wuhan subway station)

Based on the trending results of incurring cases of COVID-19 whilst having previous reforms since former outbreaks, China announced the immediate construction of a new hospital to deal with the overwhelming traffic that was present. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, the construction of two speciality field hospitals were approved to be completed in 10 days. The

hospitals used pre-determined architectural models after the Xiaotangshan Hospital, which similarly was designed to be fast tracked for construction during times of a public health crisis. Previously, China had been praised internationally for being able to construct hospitals during the 2003 SARS outbreak. This time, China was able to use that replicated model to sanction state owned enterprises for immediate construction. Upon opening of the prefabricated structure, operations were managed through an estimated 25,533 medical personnel deployed by the People's Liberation Army.

China's power has mostly been applied to both strengthen and sustain its diplomatic position especially being the originating state where the index case was hosted. Alongside bringing awareness to the issue through international forums such as the World Health Organization, the global community expects China to respond to its own public health crisis and being able to minimize the severity of it. This in turn would reflect the nature of China's diplomatic relationship. Compared to China's previous SARS epidemic in 2003, this was before the WHO International Health Regulations 2005 that relied further on China's own accord to its accountability. It wasn't until January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 that the China CDC deposited a novel coronavirus genome sequence on the GISAID GenBank Database. This was especially important in order to assist other stakeholders globally to prepare any diagnostic measures. Furthermore, receiving and gaining support within the international community is crucial for China especially upon a new virus strain that is detrimental within its borders, making it the exclusive primary source for state actors to review.

Outside of China, the World Health Organization upon being notified first responded by establishing an Incident Management Support Team, collaborating to report on the information China produced. WHO Diplomacy at this time used technical results collected in preliminary investigations by the Chinese authorities, which the first observation certified China's conclusion as being low-risk and "no evidence of human-to-human transmission". Despite both China and the WHO reinforcing this idea, many other studies such as the New England Journal of Medicine had already challenged this as most likely scientifically incorrect.

## Genomic and protein structure modelling analysis depicts the origin and infectivity of 2019-nCoV, a new coronavirus which caused a pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan, China

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.20.913368>

### Abstract

Detailed genomic and structure-based analysis of a new coronavirus, namely 2019-nCoV, showed that the new virus is a new type of bat coronavirus and is genetically fairly distant from the human SARS coronavirus. Structure analysis of the spike (S) protein of this new virus showed that its S protein only binds weakly to the ACE2 receptor on human cells whereas the human SARS coronavirus exhibits strongly affinity to the ACE receptor. **These findings suggest that the new virus does not readily transmit between humans and should theoretically not able to cause very serious human infection.** These data are important to guide design of infection control policy and inform the public on the nature of threat imposed by 2019-nCoV when results of direct laboratory tests on this virus are not expected to be available in the near future.



([Source](#): Chinese officials distribute information regarding the 2019-nCoV, claiming it was not theoretically possible for the virus to start spreading elsewhere. The World Health Organization reinforces these claims despite independent challenges against it)



## Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19

Interim guidance  
6 April 2020



### Background

This document provides advice on the use of masks in communities, during home care, and in health care settings in areas that have reported cases of COVID-19. It is intended for individuals in the community, public health and infection prevention and control (IPC) professionals, health care managers, health care workers (HCWs), and community health workers. It will be revised as more data become available.

Current information suggests that the two main routes of transmission of the COVID-19 virus are respiratory droplets and contact. Respiratory droplets are generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Any person who is in close contact (within 1 m) with someone who has respiratory symptoms (coughing, sneezing) is at risk of being exposed to potentially infective respiratory droplets. Droplets may also land on surfaces where the virus could remain viable; thus, the immediate environment of an infected individual can serve as a source of transmission (contact transmission).<sup>1</sup>

WHO has recently summarized reports of transmission of the COVID-19 virus and provided a brief overview of current

touching contaminated surfaces. WHO regularly monitors all emerging evidence about this critical topic and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

In this document medical masks are defined as surgical or procedure masks that are flat or pleated (some are shaped like cups); they are affixed to the head with straps. They are tested according to a set of standardized test methods (ASTM F2100, EN 14683, or equivalent) that aim to balance high filtration, adequate breathability and optionally, fluid penetration resistance. This document does not focus on respirators; for guidance on use of respirators see IPC guidance during health care when COVID-19 infection is suspected.<sup>11</sup>

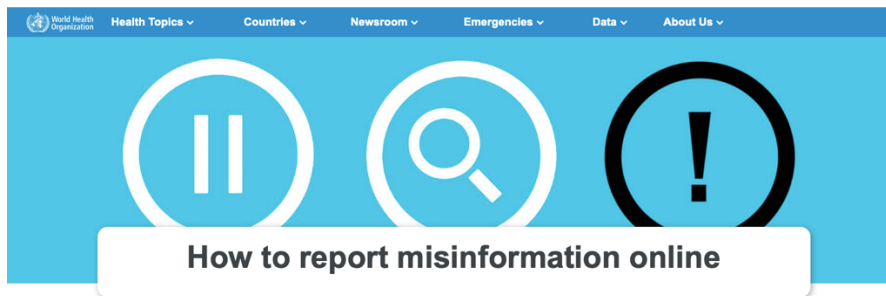
Wearing a medical mask is one of the prevention measures that can limit the spread of certain respiratory viral diseases, including COVID-19. **However, the use of a mask alone is insufficient to provide an adequate level of protection, and other measures should also be adopted.** Whether or not masks are used, maximum compliance with hand hygiene and other IPC measures is critical to prevent human-to-human transmission of COVID-19. WHO has developed guidance on IPC strategies for home care<sup>12</sup> and health care settings<sup>11</sup> for use when COVID-19 is suspected.



(Source: World Health Organization spreads a ridiculous narrative that “masks don’t work”, this was clearly false and despite issuing this advice to many governments around the world, although there were few states who went against this advice and had their domestic health departments recommend it anyway)

Earlier efforts made by Taiwanese health authorities to forward evidence to WHO and Beijing contradicting their claims was made, however became disregarded. Taiwan (ROC) does hold any signatory status with WHO nor any observer status meaning it is not protected under the International Health Regulations and WHO is not obligated to act upon it. Membership within WHO is limited to United Nations members only which had also conflicted with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, suspending Taiwan for the People’s Republic of China. Criticism was made against WHO’s decision to refuse Taiwan’s input on COVID-19 in conjunction with the possibility of abiding with China’s membership status bearing the ‘One-China policy’. Eventually these claims of “no human to human transmission” were dismissed by China on the 20<sup>th</sup> January after further discoveries had debunked that fact.

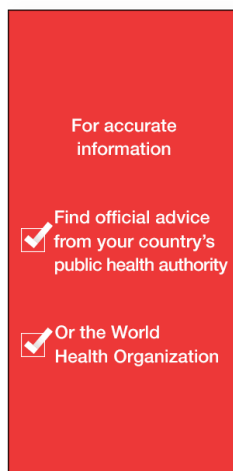
- [Remarks by US Secretary of Health and Human Services](#): Since January 6th, the United States offered to dispatch a team of epidemiology and medical experts that would support China’s public health efforts. This was denied and it wasn’t until January 12th that the genome sequence of the virus was shared to the international community via the World Health Organization.
- On January 15th, a 35-year old man from Washington State returned from Wuhan and 6 days later was hospitalized as the first confirmed patient in the country. Around this time, the World Health Organization argued that the virus held no significant risk to the general public or any infected patients.



As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, we face the challenge of an overabundance of information related to the virus. Some of this information may be false and potentially harmful.

Inaccurate information spreads widely and at speed, making it more difficult for the public to identify verified facts and advice from trusted sources, such as their local health authority or WHO.

However, everyone can **help to stop the spread**. If you see content online that you believe to be false or misleading, you can report it to the hosting social media platform.




(WHO's desperation to censor opposing sets of information and to retain their position as a "trusted source", although to be fair while the intergovernmental body WHO has made errors in the past, it is still relying under the assumption that it can provide advice using qualified scientists and global health professionals. So, it would be more plausible and safer for an average person to place more trust within it, especially if it minimizes unsupervised practices people might do that might be harmful)

Various false and/or misleading information were also provided by the World Health Organization, the Chinese government and the mainstream media. Likely this distrust was enough to cause the whole politicized mask debate. Most of these were very misleading to the situation and given their previous performance on being unreliable with information, I wouldn't be surprised if they are later debunked further. WHO currently also claims that: (note this is also being debunked by many national health departments globally if you need a source)

**Most of the people who catch COVID-19 can recover and eliminate the virus from their bodies.** If you catch the disease, make sure you treat your symptoms. If you have cough, fever, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early – but call your health facility by telephone first if possible. Most patients recover thanks to supportive care.

**FACT:**  
You can recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Catching the new coronavirus **DOES NOT** mean you will have it for life.




World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

Somewhat truth: While yes it's true that especially for young people, that COVID-19 has a high survival rate ranging from 94-99% in terms of disease, there are very different factors that wouldn't make a one-size fits all magic number accurate. COVID-19 is a life-threatening virus with an increasing mortality rate, that although possible and highly likely to recover from the disease symptoms, many patients will likely exhibit long-term health complications ranging from respiratory failure, permanent lung, heart, kidney and/or even brain damage are some starting examples. This has been reinforced by many other independent and public virology bodies that confirm this claim.

**Taking a hot bath will not prevent you from catching COVID-19.** Your normal body temperature remains around 36.5°C to 37°C, regardless of the temperature of your bath or shower. Actually, taking a hot bath with extremely hot water can be harmful, as it can burn you.

**FACT:**  
**Taking a hot bath does not prevent the new coronavirus disease**

The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. By doing this you eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.



World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

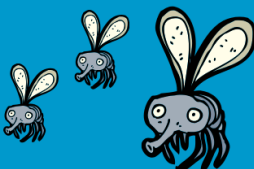
The truth: Like washing your hands, although it is technically not guaranteed to kill the virus compared to a disinfectant, sanitizer or virucide etc, it is rather to remove the soil from the surface as H2O would hold the ingredients of the virus cells to be moved elsewhere.

**To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.**

The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

**FACT:**  
**The new coronavirus CANNOT be transmitted through mosquito bites**

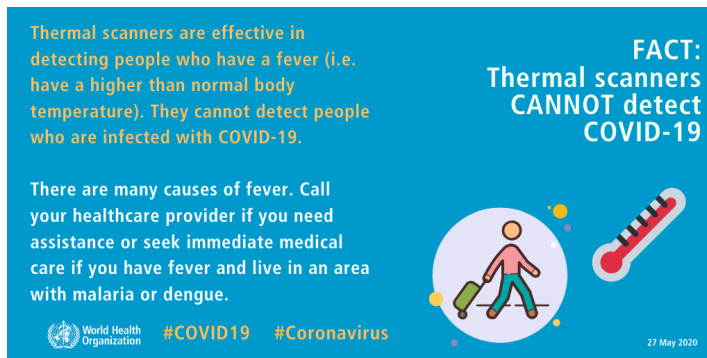
To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.



World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

Somewhat truth: In order for a mosquito to vector disease to survive, it would need to be able to survive with a sufficient level of viremia in the blood to replicate to the stage where the ingested amount can be carried. It is estimated around over 700 million people per year would have an interaction with a mosquito borne disease despite the novel coronavirus not suggesting any actual record of mosquito transmission. Given that COVID-19 is a respiratory virus and primarily transmitted through aerosol methods, the most possible way would be that a mosquito can feed off infected blood and infect its salivary glands. Even this entire process would likely take multiple days or weeks which even exiting the body will depend on the mosquito's immune

system. However even with the absence of evidence, it does not reject the hypothesis given there is always a possibility despite being unlikely.



Not enough context: While everything in this infographic is technically correct in the sense that thermography cannot directly confirm a diagnosis of the China Virus, it should not be dismissed as an effective preventative measure in controlling the spread. Fevers remain the most common symptom of the coronavirus disease, which can be identified via infrared thermal imaging.





Two misleading errors about storing masks, rest is accurate: Used face-masks in context are different compared to what you would typically store in plastic and sealable bags. Although it is 100% safe for retailers to store unused, clean and brand new face masks before usage, this can be problematic once exposed further. Most expert advice recommends that reuse of face-masks are stored in a clean and breathable container such as a paper bag. Note manufacturer instruction for each face-mask product will also vary and should be double checked. Having an air-tight bag can risk trapping further moisture that leads to bacterial growth among the mask. This is especially dangerous which as suggested by WHO, wearing a dirty mask that is contaminated could be lethal if directly inhaled)

Other global actors who were formally notified of the outbreak had also been motivated to provide aid and funding to China. Upon the peak of the COVID-19 in China, many international efforts were also made by states in an attempt to evacuate its citizens. Later at the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly, the Chinese government also pledged to contribute 2 billion USD in COVID-19 foreign aid over two years, stating the necessity to have the global response led by WHO.

Most of China's recent affairs has also left it in greater tension within its international relations ranging mostly from criticism to summoning action against China. Earlier on the outbreak, many world leaders phrased China's improvement in comparison to its previous handling of public health crisis although on the long term had become questioned on its transparency of disclosures. It also conflicted the degree of reliability especially as the Chinese central government had imposed restrictions on any unauthorised research being published in relation to COVID-19. While the general scientific consensus is that the virus is of zoonotic origin, it had also prompt international demand for investigation into the origin on concern that findings have been limited to maintain China's current narrative. Since January 2020, other global actors starting with the United States CDC have attempted to offer international aid for assisting the investigation and research, China's approach was taken differently through withholding access from the international community whilst mandating confidentiality among its own experts.

In February 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced it would revoke the citizenship of 13 media correspondents who worked for various major commercial publications based from the US. This was part of China's action in retaliation of the US Government's recent decision to classify various Chinese state media outlets as "foreign missions" whilst imposing a visa limit for its journalists. Various condemnation was made against China on the accusation that this decision would improve its ability to eliminate press investigations on its human rights violations in Xinjing re-education camps or the true nature surrounding its management of the pandemic. Concerns were also arisen given that China's hard power included suspension of US media even in its self-governing special administrative zones.

Attempts to disassociate itself from liability over the virus have been made by China, along with theorising the possibility that it was engineered elsewhere outside its border. This came after deflecting the accusations by other state actors that COVID-19 originated from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which China controversially theorized the possibility of the United States Armed Forces introducing the virus during the midst of the 2019 Wuhan Military Games.

By April 2020, many ambassadors from African Union member states filed to the Chinese Foreign Ministry over concerns of systematically racial discriminatory practices engaged against African nationals within China by authorities. Most of the ambassadors had addressed their allegations that China had engaged in targeted methods that attempted to build stigma on the idea of African nationals spreading the virus. This was in reference to the various campaigns such as those occurring in Guangzhou where authorities had conducted in a manner that included forced segregation, search and seizure on the basis of African status. China denied the allegations against having any discriminatory agenda and reinforced its assertion towards being a standardized and neutral public health practice.

The power that has been exhibited by China has mostly been applied using a mixture of hard and soft power in order to conduct itself during the COVID-19 outbreak. Through the crisis, China had been taking advantage to help re-brand its international standing that strengthens its recent conduct being phrased and modelled.

Soft power by China has also been attempted through a strategy what is dubbed as "facemask diplomacy", where efforts are made to export medical supplies to counter its negative image. China has thus distributed aid towards over 82 countries including the WHO and African Union. This has been described by some as part of the effort to portray China reputation as

the correct narrative in lieu of its previous conduct. It has also been suggested that China's engagement in this diplomacy would possibly emphasise on long term dependency and act in a similar manner to its "Debt-Trap Diplomacy". As of [February 2020](#), countries including Djibouti, Tonga, Maldives, the Republic of the Congo, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, Niger, Laos, Zambia, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Mongolia all owe debt to China that is relative to 20% of their nominal GDP.

The extent China has been effective in pursuing its national interest during the pandemic gave mixed results. Initially China's response to the outbreak of COVID-19 was phrased within the international community primarily due to its improvement since the 2003 SARS outbreak. This began to eventually fall apart for its struggle to gain greater international standing as further discoveries were made including its influence within the World Health Organization. In particular, this included the measures taken against justifying regional relations in East Asia given Taiwan's submission to WHO did not warrant an applicable input due to the lack of Taiwan's UN membership. Beijing had also been notified by Taiwan's evidence of the virus in advance and most likely induced a greater strain on Cross Strait Relations.

Through some of China's state propaganda being broadcasted, it has attempted to promote its authoritarian system that would contrast with the pandemic response by the West. For example, the '[Once Upon a Virus](#)' video published by Chinese state media which attempts to mock the United States whilst depicting its own conduct as inherently 'correct'. It was also expressed in contradicting topics such as information validity or concentration camp allegations. Before the peak of COVID-19, the United States and China were engaged in a trade war and had signed a trade deal in January although relations have deteriorated during the pandemic. Central to the US-China Phase One Deal included the deduction of tariffs that would enable a boost of Chinese purchases in US Goods and Services estimated to stimulate over \$200 billion over two years.

Especially given the global demand for medical supplies and a high percentage of the PPE manufacturing is based from China, higher amounts were imported on China's concerns of declining domestic shortage. Earlier in January 2020, China officially reported the import of over 2.5 billion epidemic related devices which through its foreign state consulates called for its diplomats to bulk-buy supplies to be dispatched back to China. This was activated along with many Chinese corporations and state-owned enterprises being directed to procure essential supplies to be delivered from overseas sources into China. Domestically upon the acceleration of the outbreak, China had also seen a market shortage upon public demand and thus sanctioned price control and hoarding regulations in response to this. Authorities were also able to make use of offshore manufacturing plants based in its borders to seize stock and cancel any exports. China was successfully able to secure a mass procurement of supplies at lower market value in foreign markets which although contributed to shortages globally, enabled China to combat a possible supply issue.

**United Nations** @UN

The #COVID19 pandemic is demonstrating what we all know: millennia of patriarchy have resulted in a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture which damages everyone – women, men, girls & boys.

-- @antonioguterres [bit.ly/2G8Rqh3](https://bit.ly/2G8Rqh3)

**"This is the time to rebuild more equal, inclusive, and resilient societies."**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres  
21 August 2020  
[un.org/coronavirus](https://un.org/coronavirus) | #COVID19

11:06 PM · Sep 6, 2020 · TweetDeck

2K Retweets 12.4K Quote Tweets 3.8K Likes

**UN Women** @UN\_Women

Let's interrupt the gender bias instead of the women who are speaking.

We can all help stop the cycle of manterruption by recognizing it, calling it out, and stopping an interrupter in his (or her) tracks.

**Manterruption**

/məntə'ɪrʃn/

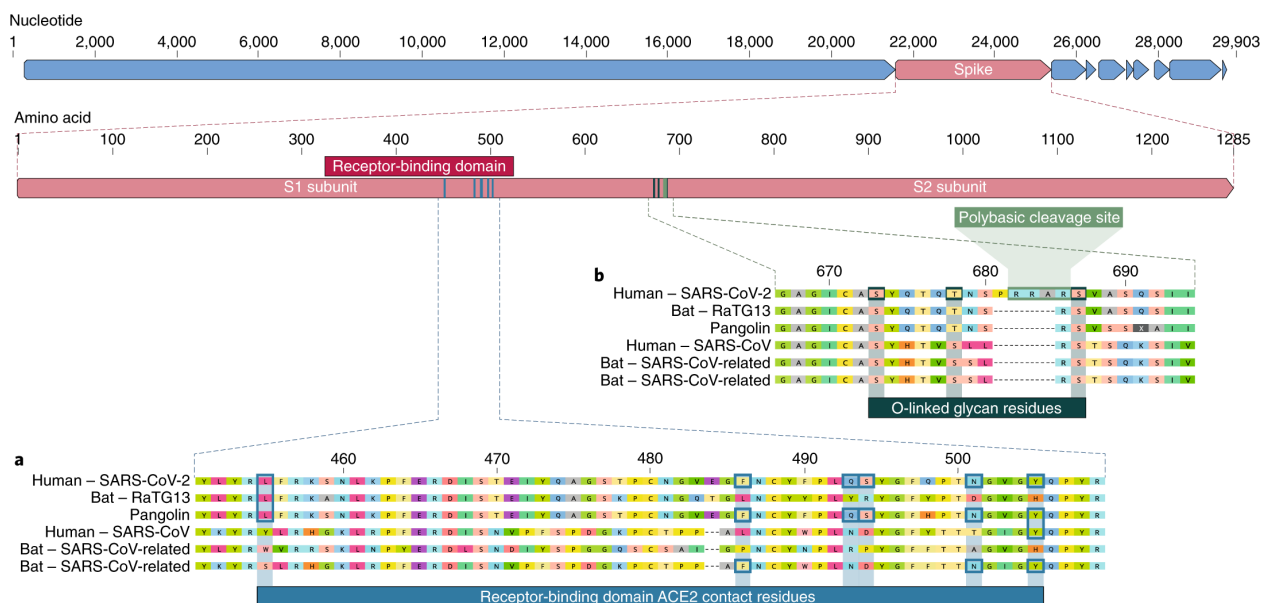
noun

1. The unnecessary interruption of a woman by a man.
2. A patriarchal act that is linked to a man's sense of epistemic entitlement that makes it very natural to speak over others, and to hold the floor for longer than is proper.

1. As explained by journalist Jessica Bennett  
2. As explained by writer and philosopher Kate Manne

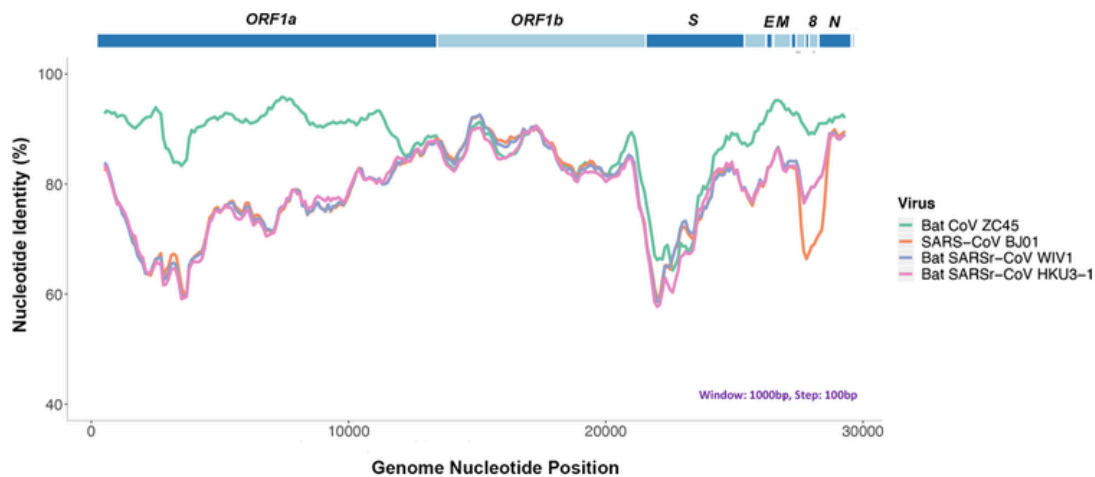
(Source: How the United Nations takes advantage of a health crisis to advance its ideology, despite being an intergovernmental body that is supposed to impartially cater to member states. Yes [this](#) is a real post from the actual United Nations office)

## Chapter



(Source: SARS-CoV-2 mutations with covid19 being the red bar, shows the precise alignment with related sequences to bats and pangolins that confirm zoonotic transfer. It was found that the receptor-binding domain of the virus' spike protein had evolved to the stage where it can penetrate the human cells of ACE2, having a match for natural evolutionary processes expected in bat coronaviruses. Roughly 90% of the genetic code between bat coronaviruses and the SARS-COV-2 match)





3

(Source: Genomic sequence of SARS-COV-2 exhibits strict similarities to [ZC45](#) which matched roughly 89% of its nucleotide. Most importantly, the E-Protein was 100% identical confirming it is homologous, it also showed that the Nucleocapsid protein was 94% identical, the Membrane protein is 98.6% identical, the second half of the Spike protein was 95% identical and the ORF8 gene was 94.2%. Biggest difference was SARS-COV-2 was it contained receptor-binding motif in it's spike protein, which could bind hACE2 which Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 in the human organs could allow entry and digestion of infection. The original ZC45 was a research on bats back in 2015-17 at Chinese military laboratories in Chongqing and Nanjing, which over two decades there has been a collection of bat coronavirus backbone templates)

Now depending if i'm right or wrong, usually it's important that the Chinese government can be held accountable especially so that in the future they can prevent a similar incident. The theory that it was biologically engineered, caused by accident within a lab, or purposely encouraged naturally to spread is very possible. Having a pandemic growth meant various advantages which included the justification of the argument for the insecure and corrupt practice of mail-in-voting that was being pressured. It would be very easy to commit electoral fraud if the increasing threat of the virus continued. Exceeding this, if it was intentionally designed to commit a global pandemic, then various networks of actors would be contributing and which we have witnessed many who have deliberately contributed to the death of thousands.

In particular, five governors within the United States either directly sanctioned or within their administration, ordered the hospitalized COVID-19 infected patients to be transferred into aged care nursing homes that acted as makeshift hospitals, knowing that elderly people are at greater risk of illness if infected. Primarily this also involved the use of allowing greater waiver of employee requirements in the healthcare sector. Majority of COVID-19 deaths would later occur within the nursing facilities. The legal directives included:

- 56th Governor of New York The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
  - [New York State Executive Order No. 202.11: Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency](#)
  - [New York State Department of Health Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Nursing Homes](#)
- 40th Governor of California The Honorable Gavin Newsom
  - [Executive Order N-39-20](#)

- [California Department of Public Health: AFL 20-32.1 - Suspension of Regulatory Enforcement of Specified Skilled Nursing Facility Requirements](#)
- 56th Governor of New Jersey The Honorable Phil Murphy
  - [New Jersey Department of Health: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Post-Acute Care Settings](#)
- 47th Governor of Pennsylvania The Honorable Tom Wolf
  - [Pennsylvania Department of Health: Interim Guidance for Nursing Facilities During COVID-19](#)
- 49th Governor of Michigan The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
  - [Executive Order 2020-50 \(COVID-19\) Enhanced protections for residents and staff of long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Based on the official synopsis for the origin of the outbreak, it is said that it first was transmitted from a zoonotic vector to a human host at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. Although the World Health Organization only declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30th 2020, it wasn't until March 11th that it was recognised as a pandemic by WHO.

As previously mentioned, disease outbreaks aren't new in the field of Chinese public health and even had already been engaging in related research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology located within the epicentre. This was funded by multiple foreign state entities outside China exceeding grant amounts of millions that was designed to study emerging infectious diseases. The argument that the virus was intentionally released is very unlikely especially given that following China's former outbreak, there has been vast interest in its ongoing research by foreign auditors. Any of the laboratories in Wuhan conducting work with the plan of launching offensive biological weapons would have likely been quickly alarmed. However, there is a rare possibility that it was accidentally released and/or maybe given a pass to spread itself without warning.

Both the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Wuhan Centre for Disease Prevention & Control were within the proximity of the epicentre of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, which although has officially denied responsibility was the closest location where similar viral samples had existed for "research purposes". Multiple of the studies previously conducted within these premises were also for SARS coronavirus especially following the 2003 outbreak. Since the construction of the Biosafety-Lab 4 at Wuhan Institute of Virology, the venue has also acted as storage facility for purified viruses (some being the most dangerous in existence) and act as a reference laboratory to support the World Health Organization.

Construction of the BSL-4 was done with international collaboration among France's own virology researchers, however the French company, Technip who was designated to certify the building's safety standards pulled out earlier along with the French scientists allocated there. This means that without independent certification from an external source, it is unclear what standard the Wuhan Institute of Virology did themselves to enact their safety protocols or train their employees within the facility.

The first study for the new lab started back in 2014 with a project for the BSL-3 pathogen that was tied to the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, capable of infecting livestock and

infecting a human host. Since then, it has also done studies for other deadly pathogens that included Lassa virus, ebola and many others.

At the highest containment levels, the categorisation of a BSL-4 lab setting means the environment of the laboratory is designed to safely interact with certain viruses such as Ebola, Plague, Smallpox or Marburg etc. Only two BSL-4 labs are currently known to be established within China with both being state owned although the other one is for veterinary research. Assuming with international Pathogen and Protection standards such as the United States or European Union standards, we know that only the Wuhan Institute of Virology is the only laboratory sufficient to sustain SARS-COV-2 in Wuhan. The Wuhan Centre for Disease Prevention and Control bears a biosafety level 2 lab which means most of their research would be suitable for SARS-COV-1 rather than the current one. Currently it is generally accepted globally that any research activities conducted in relation to the SARS-COV-2 is most safe if taken correctly within a BSL-3 laboratory. However, although it did not construct a BSL-4 lab until 2014, it was able to examine similar simulations using SARS-COV-1 which can be done within an environment of a lower biosafety level. We know that since its previous epidemic back in 2002-04, it was big on starting an extensive research campaign for coronaviruses. Here is a few of the Wuhan Institute of Virology's notable findings it was involved in coronavirus:

- Li W, Shi Z, Yu M, et al. Bats are natural reservoirs of SARS-like coronaviruses. *Science*. 2005;310(5748):676-679. doi:10.1126/science.1118391
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- Yang XL, Hu B, Wang B, et al. Isolation and Characterization of a Novel Bat Coronavirus Closely Related to the Direct Progenitor of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus. *J Virol*. 2015;90(6):3253-3256. Published 2015 Dec 30. doi:10.1128/JVI.02582-15
- Menachery VD, Yount BL Jr, Debbink K, et al. A SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence [published correction appears in *Nat Med*. 2016 Apr;22(4):446]. *Nat Med*. 2015;21(12):1508-1513. doi:10.1038/nm.3985
- Hu, Ben et al. "Discovery of a rich gene pool of bat SARS-related coronaviruses provides new insights into the origin of SARS coronavirus." *PLoS pathogens* vol. 13,11 e1006698. 30 Nov. 2017, doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1006698
- Zhou, Peng et al. "Fatal swine acute diarrhoea syndrome caused by an HKU2-related coronavirus of bat origin." *Nature* vol. 556,7700 (2018): 255-258. doi:10.1038/s41586-018-0010-9
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- Shen, Zhou et al. "A conserved region of nonstructural protein 1 from alphacoronaviruses inhibits host gene expression and is critical for viral virulence." *The Journal of biological chemistry* vol. 294,37 (2019): 13606-13618. doi:10.1074/jbc.RA119.009713

Most of the research conducted by scientists involved collecting samples from bats at a cave in Kunming, Yunnan Province which was done 10 times during different seasons under strict safety guidance. It is also possible that the bat may have originated from this cave, while the viral samples collected also bear strict similarities to the SARS-COV-2. To summarise their findings in layman terms done between 2005-2019, the scientists at Wuhan Institute of Virology were able to conclude multiple findings about the risk of coronavirus. This included the fact that many species of horseshoe bats were a prominent natural reservoir for

coronaviruses that can infect the human cells, in fact it was found that coinfection of multiple viruses can affect one single bat and spread among other bats. Because coronaviruses are able to mix their genes, this can mean that a single bat being infected with twice or more viruses can potentially lead to a whole new strain of novel-coronavirus. Given that bats have an immune system that makes them a perfect host virtually against really any virus, this makes it more susceptible to transport zoonotic viruses which often is shown to have a stronger repository even compared to rodents. Unfortunately, no existing antibody or vaccine is capable of eliminating the simulated bat coronaviruses if it were to cause disease to humans without damaging tissues.

We know that bats species aren't a common occurrence in the city of Wuhan, as most foster their habitat in caves and trees away in darkness making a very bustling city with lights a very unattractive option for bats. In fact, most of the most viral infected bats that were collected for research were found hundreds of kilometres outside of the city. Not to mention around November and even for winter where it would be the coldest time of year in China, being also the natural hibernation period for bats. Although bats are recognised as a food product, many local testimonies in Wuhan stated that the local seafood market trading bats were at the time less frequent. As bats are commonly not native to the metropolitan area of Wuhan, any bats would have required physical importation. It is also suggested that even when cooking bats, they can possibly still emit contaminants that may still survive (this is why most cookbooks recommend using seasoning to mask reminiscence of these odors).

During this time, there were some slight concerns over the process of the research and looking through an old article published by the Wuhan Institute of Virology alerted this. This specific article while casually making a short 'dad joke', highlights one of its researchers Fan Yibu, who despite the risk of being bitten by a bat had also previously been bitten with a possibly infectious bat in the past on his index finger. Also take note of the insufficient safety precautions that is shown in the pictures attached to the articles.



Article: 【中国青年报】“蝙蝠女侠”团队找出SARS病毒源

[http://www.whiov.cas.cn/xwdt\\_105286/kydt/201712/t20171214\\_4916301.html](http://www.whiov.cas.cn/xwdt_105286/kydt/201712/t20171214_4916301.html)

We know that research on bats has likely continued or was scheduled as listed on the Wuhan Institute of Virology's recruitment listings had featured demand for bats and the virus transmission. Between November and December of 2019, the following was listed on the website:





- [武汉病毒研究所周鹏学科组博士后招聘启事 = Postdoctoral Recruitment Notice of Zhou Peng Discipline Group of Wuhan Virus Research Institute \(November 18, 2019\)](#)
- [武汉病毒研究所刘寨学科组博士后招生公告 = Postdoctoral Recruitment Notice for Liu Zhai Discipline Group of Wuhan Virus Research Institute \(November 29, 2019\)](#)
- [武汉病毒所石正丽学科组博士后招聘启事 = Postdoctoral Recruitment Notice of Shi Zhengli Discipline Group of Wuhan Virology Institute \(December 24, 2019\)](#)

What this indicates is that approximately between the time before information of the novel-coronavirus was notified to the World Health Organization, these postdoctoral level positions were being sought for the purposes of research endeavours. For each discipline group, they were assigned certain directions to conduct their project with also further expectation that applicants could also have English proficiency for academic journals (suggesting a wider audience). The following positions would involve these research disciplines as translated:

- ➔ *Zhou Peng Discipline Group: The main research directions of the research group: Taking bat as the research object, answer the molecular mechanism that can coexist with Ebola and SARS-related coronavirus for a long time without disease, and its relationship with flight and longevity. Virology, immunology, cell biology and various omics are used to compare the differences between humans and other mammals.*
- ➔ *Liu Zhai Discipline Group: Research on virus epidemic and evolution law & Pathogen microorganism genome and big data...infectious disease.....computational virology....*
- ➔ *Shi Zhengli Discipline Group: Proposed recruitment direction 1: Ecological study of bat migration and virus transmission Prospective direction 2: bat virus cross-species infection and its pathogenicity*

Does a virology institute prove any correlation and causation simply with job listings? Absolutely not necessary although it is concerning that before a pandemic, the laboratory were seeking researchers to study both coronaviruses, zoonotic diseases and even the public health implications of a disease outbreak. After all, it is reasonable that ongoing research as has been the case for numerous years would continue its research on coronaviruses and bats.

When the actual outbreak of COVID-19 actually arose, most of the management at the Wuhan Institute of Virology denied any link to the outbreak. In fact, the newly formed group led by Shi Zhengli (also informally known as ‘batwoman’ for her research in bats) signalled some concern that the new virus had escaped the containment facility. Zhengli described this event with Scientific America as “one of the most stressful events of her life” which during that time, her team was instructed to cross examine the virus using a polymerase chain reaction technique to amplify the genetic material. In short, after reviewing any previous collected viral samples and any incident reports that occurred, it was confirmed that SARS-CoV-2 had no match with anything from the laboratory.

Although with all due respect to the scientists, if their investigation confirmed that there was no lab outbreak then this theory would be invalid unless another party was involved or even by slight possibility that an accident had gone unnoticed. Hypothetically, there’s always a possibility that the samples might have been mistakenly disposed incorrectly or that the origin of them may have contributed to the possible outbreak. Laboratory-acquired infections and incidents have occurred many times the past before, which in China has occurred various times even with coronaviruses escaping in the past. In December 2019, an incident of a Brucella bacterial outbreak occurred at the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute that impacted 100 people. Back in 2011, the same type of Brucella outbreak occurred at China’s Northeast Agricultural University that affected 27 students, who then also had to receive compensation for tuition waivers and other costs. We also know that during the course of research of SARS-COV-1, it had managed to escape the facility on separate incidents.

Because SARS-COV-2 has an incubation period that can last days or even weeks, a researcher might have hypothetically accidentally spilled over the virus and simply dismissed it as harmless. Even the Chinese National Health Commission later confirmed it destroyed early samples of the novel viruses from the lab due to “safety reasons”. This was said to be part of the laboratories mandated safety precautions when handling dangerous pathogens and thus reinforced their justification of no liability.

As the Wuhan Institute of Virology did make plausible findings on the fact of bat coronaviruses being prominent, it is likely this information was openly disregarded by the general public. On an unrelated note based on the Shanghai-based The Paper, leading academics from the Chinese Academic of Engineering had sometime in the past been penalized after illegally selling laboratory animals and experimental milk earning over millions of yuan. This doesn’t necessarily mean much but given this black-market, there is always a likelihood that a laboratory worker secretly attempted to sell biohazardous animal products rather than dispose.

In order for the bat to reach the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan would have likely meant either physical delivery, infected employee/customer or an intermediary food product infected. Assuming that bats were less in-demand at the time and it's very likely that naturally in general they would be less likely to be around the area, it would mean the first infection would have necessarily needed to have occurred before entering the market. According to the Chinese CDC, out of the 585 environmental samples collected from the market, there were 33 confirmed traces of coronavirus disease. Even before the actual bat or whatever was delivered to the consumer, it would have already likely been interacted with many other people beforehand thus earlier infections, most likely being:

- The hunter that caught the bat
- Any logistics employees associated with transporting the bat

- Possibly any wholesale retailers beforehand or the chefs
- The actual sellers at the wet market (Many reports also described that the place was very narrow and most livestock were openly slaughtered, cooked and sold on premise)
- Any friends, family, acquaintances and anyone the following may have interacted or came into contact with

However, this would mean even so with the contact tracing method, the epidemic levels of the outbreak would have occurred in multiple places outside Wuhan, assuming through this time patient zero was going about their day under incubation unknowingly. To assume with a mass-surveillance state like China and that a virus could automatically appear out of thin-air at a wet market seems a bit unlikely.

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Written by 18-year old writer in collaboration with anonymous group of researchers. I affirm that no affiliation with any corporation, nation-state, organization nor any public/private funding has occurred.



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